

PIPE DREAMS UPDATE

Work has continued at the Fratelli Ruffatti factory in Italy on the construction of the organ pipes, console and other internals for our new organ. Sadly national and international Covid-19 restrictions means that Ruffatti are now unable to deliver and install our new organ until 2022. Whilst this delay is very disappointing for us, we have been using the additional time to explore enhancements to the organ specification.

The stoplist for the original organ design provides the conditions for the highest possible versatility to support the liturgy, lead the choir and congregational singing and perform the classical organ repertoire of different styles including the performance of romantic organ music with special reference to the great works of the French composers.

Despite the very creative use of the available space within the original organ casings, it has not been possible to include stops that would satisfy the desired completeness of specification we identified with the Diocesan Organ Advisor in 2017. At that time of funding uncertainty, it was agreed that a suitably designed Festival Trumpet stop would fill the gap in specification although the additional pipes would have to be positioned in a separate location. Because of the funding uncertainties, it was decided to design the new organ console to make provision for such a stop at a time of greater funding certainty. We have now reached that time and, at our invitation, Ruffatti have prepared a proposal for the addition of a separate Festival Trumpet stop with the additional pipes located in the third triforium bay next to the main organ casings, as illustrated in the photomontage of the proposed new arrangement.

The proposal includes new access doors to the triforium from the new blower room to facilitate tuning. We have also taken the opportunity to add a Zimbelstern stop to our specification within the faculty application. This stop is to be made of 12 small brass bells on a rotating platform which when operated produces a very special effect that has been used in organs for centuries to enhance musical atmosphere. This stop may be used for Christmas carols, and a variety of baroque pieces and is small enough to be located within the main instrument casings.

These enhancements will add a new dimension to the instrument allowing performers a wider choice of repertoire. We are pleased to announce that the Friends of Pershore Abbey have generously agreed funding support for the additional work should our faculty application be successful.

More detailed information may be obtained from David Long, Chairman Fabric Committee.

